

**PRIMARY AND RELATED SERVICES FUNDED VIA MCKINNEY-VENTO  
HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT IN IOWA  
2003-2006**

Name of LEA:	Ottumwa Community School District
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Amount of Grant:	\$23,000
Project Period:	July 2003 to June 2004

**Abstract:**

For 143 students in the District in 2001-2002, homelessness was just one of the many barriers to school success. Homelessness impacts students in a variety of areas---falling behind academically; personal needs for food, school supplies, clothing, and transportation; and mental health issues. To address some of the more pressing concerns of these children and youth, the District will provide assistance in four key areas: supplemental instruction, personal needs, counseling, and staff development. With one of the highest dropout rates in the state, Ottumwa struggles to keep students in school. For homeless students, attendance becomes one reason they fall behind in classes. Summer courses provide opportunities for students to catch up and graduate with their peers but the costs for many students make this option prohibitive. This grant will provide funds to assist elementary, middle and high school students to attend summer school. Many times, homeless students have emergency situations where food, clothing, and transportation needs become an issue. This can also impact the family's ability to provide the necessary school supplies. Funds from this proposal will support student needs in these areas. Although the district provides some counseling services, there is not enough to meet the need of this high-risk population. It is not uncommon for this population to have needs that simply can't be met by a guidance counselor. Homeless students' need group or individual counseling sessions provided by a qualified mental health counselor. The grant will allow the district to expand current services to better meet the needs of homeless students.